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RUBIN
COMICS
C&W

SUPER HEROES FROM THE MIND OF

CLIVE BARKER

HOKUM & HEX

HE'S BACK!
WITNESS THE
VINTAGE
VIOLENCE
OF



THE INCREDIBLE
Z-MAN

DIRECT EDITION

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IN A MIX OF MAGIC, COMEDY AND EXPLOSIVE SUSPENSE, FAILED STAND-UP COMIC TRIP MUNROE HAS BECOME THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST A POWERFUL, EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL OVERLORD — IN OTHER WORDS, EARTH'S LAST, BEST HOPE... IS A JOKE.

"WHEN I WAS A KID, I USED TO READ THIS COMIC BOOK CALLED THE FANTASTIC FOUR."

"THERE WAS THIS WRITER-- I'LL NEVER FORGET HIS SILLY NAME, 'STAN LEE'-- AND HE'D DO THINGS LIKE HAVE THESE SUPER HEROES GO BACK, OR GET LOST AND HAVE TO ASK DIRECTIONS OR EVEN GET HARASSED BY THE COPS."

"I'M SORTA THINKING ABOUT ALL THAT, NOW THAT MY LIFE'S BECOMING LIKE SOME DAMN COMIC-BOOK STORY ITSELF. TRIP MUNROE, 'SCOOP-MAGICIAN'!"

"EXCEPT-- THIS IS REAL LIFE. IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE GOT SOME WRITER WHO'S GONNA MAKE THE HORDES OF ATLANTIS ATTACK, SO I CAN BE THE HERO AND EVERYTHING 'LL WORK OUT FINE."

"COMIC BOOKS... HUH. I WONDER IF THEY'RE WHERE I GOT THE HABIT OF THINKING IN COMPLETE SENTENCES?"

TRIP!

MR. MUNROE!

WHO'S THAT WITH YOU?

WHY'D YOU BLOW UP THE TROOP?

FRANK LOVECE: WRITER
ANTHONY WILLIAMS: PENCILLER
ANDY LANNING: INKS
JOHN COSTANZA: LETTERS
MARIA PARWILL-SKI: COORDS
MARG McLAURIN: EDITS
CARL POTTS: EXECUTIVE EDITS
MALCOLM SMITH: CONTRIBUTING ARTS

TONI DETALDO: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CLIVE BARKER PRESENTS...

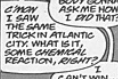
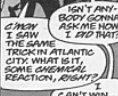
HOKUM & HEX

FIRE and RUST

MR. MUNROE! DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU HAVE SUPER POWERS?

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LOS ANGELES. THE PARAGON BUILDING...

...CORPORATE NEXUS OF PARAGON COMMUNICATIONS...

...AND OF ITS CHAIRMAN, G.E.O. AND FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES DICTATOR JERRY DOORE--

HE IS CITIZEN KANE BY WAY OF BIRTH VADER, A SHADOW-KING WHOSE HOLDINGS-- BOTH KNOWN AND COVERT-- CONTROL VIRTUALLY ALL MEDIA IN THE WORLD.

FROM NETWORKS TO NEWSPAPERS.

COMICS TO CABLE.

HE USES THE WORD "SYNERGY" A LOT.

ALL THIS EFFORT-- AND MORE-- HAS SURGED TOWARD ONE GOAL:

ELIMINATING ALL MEMORY OF EARTH'S SUPER HEROES--THE LONG-GONE "HYPER-KIND"-- MAKING THEM SEEM AS BUT FICTION.

YET NOW, AFTER YEARS, THE FICTIONS HAVE COME ALIVE.

WELL, KLAUS... I ALWAYS KNEW I COULDN'T PREVENT IT... SO I'VE SPENT MY LIFE TRYING TO CONTROL IT...

* FOR THE FULL STORY, SEE HYPERKIND #1-5.



...THE INEVITABLE CYCLE OF "HEROES."

THEY COME... FLOURISH... FADE INTO MYTH. THE GODS OF GREECE AND ROME... THE GIANTS OF MEDIEVAL ENGLAND... THE PAXIS OF WORLD WARS I AND II...

...PEOPLE THINK THEY'RE JUST LEGENDS... STORIES.



PEOPLE ARE IDIOTS.

COMPUTER! RECALL VIDEO FROM THE ROVER EYES WE HAD TRAILING WORTH!



HMPH. OH, SHE'S SOOO HIGH-TECH. DIDN'T EVEN KNOW SHE WAS BEING WATCHED.

WELL... AT LEAST THE HOLDING COMPANY OF MY SUBSIDIARY'S SUBSIDIARY GOT ITS MONEY'S WORTH. SHE DID LET US SEE WHAT THIS "SUPER-MAGICIAN" CAN DO.

SO... KLAUS... SHALL I DESTROY HIM NOW OR WAIT TILL I GET HOME?

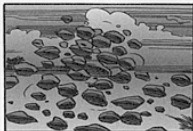
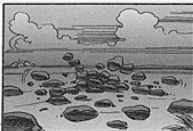
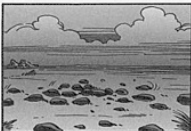
ACROSS THE CONTINENT: THE SAME SCENE, BUT DIFFERENT.



A LONE MAN.

A LONE SCREEN.

ALONE.



WELL, HERSCHEL
FLEISCHMANN...
YOU'RE OFFICIALLY
RETIRED 65 YEARS
OLD, AND OUT
YOU GO.

I LIKED
SELLING
INSURANCE
--IT WAS ALL
I KNEW...
ALL I
WAS.

SO...
WHAT'S
LEFT?

ANOTHER 5, 10 YEARS OF
FEEDING PIGEONS? WATCHING
TV? EARLY-BIRD SPECIALS
FOR DINNER...?

...HAVE IDENTIFIED STANDUP
COMIC TRIP MUNROE AS THE
CIVILIAN IN MONDAY'S ROGUE-
FELLER CENTER MELEE...

NO FAMILY... NO
NOTHING... AND
NOW... NO JOB...

STAWWWWWPPP

NOOOOOOOOO

IT'S TEMPESSST

WHAT? OH,
LORD-- I SAW IT
AGAIN. IT'S GETTING
WORSE. EVER SINCE
THAT... THAT "SUPER-
MAGICIAN"
SHOWED UP.

IS THIS...
IS THIS
WHAT IT
IS... TO
GROW
SENILE?

NO! I AM FINE! THESE
... DAYDREAMS... ARE
JUST THAT. IT'S A
COMMON REACTION TO
RETIREMENT, IS ALL...

...AND TO SEEING...
HYPERKIND...
AGAIN...

HYPERKIND?
WHAT THE
BLAZES IS A
HYPERKIND?
WHERE DID
THAT WORD
COME FROM?

MAYBE
HERE, I
GUESS...



"AT LASSSST!
AT LASSSST!"

DECADES SPENT IN PAIN!
MY BODY-- DESTROYED! MY
ATOMS-- WRENGED APART!

I COULD SEE EVERYTHING...
YET I WAS NOTHING...

...NOTHING,
EXCEPT PAIN!

YOU DID THIS TO ME, HUMAN.
DISPERSED AND DISCARDED MY
SOUL... LEAVING ME IN
AGONY... FOR YEARS!

YET ERAS END, HUMAN. THE WALLS
BETWEEN THE DECAYING
WORLDS HAVE BEEN BREACHED...

... AND A NEW WIND
HAS COME RUSHING
THROUGH.

IT HAS BROUGHT
GOOD!! IT HAS
BROUGHT
MEMORY! IT
HAS BROUGHT
THE WILL OF MY
BRETHREN--
THE TEMPLUS
MAGI!-- TO
HELP ME.

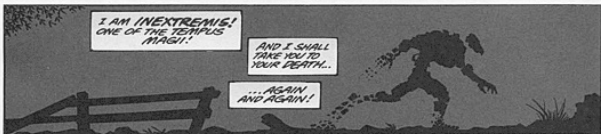
I AM NOT WHAT
I WAS, HUMAN.
NOW I AM BITS
AND PIECES OF
WHAT MY SOUL
COULD COLLECT.

IT HAS TAKEN ME
TIME. NOW IRONIC--
FOR I AM OF TIME.

I AM /NEXTREMIS!
ONE OF THE TEMPLUS
MAGI!

AND I SHALL
TAKE YOU TO
YOUR DEATH..

... AGAIN
AND AGAIN!



NEW YORK COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

... AND IN LIGHT OF MR. MUNROE'S APPARENT EXTRA-NORMAL "POWERS," THE JUSTICE DEPT. WISHES TO PLACE THE DEFENDANT IN OUR CUSTODY.

YOUR HONOR, I'M ONLY A LEGAL-AID ATTORNEY, BUT MY COLLEAGUE HAS FORGOTTEN ABOUT A LITTLE SOMETHING WE CALL A TRIAL.

MR. MUNROE HAS PLED NOT GUILTY. NO EVIDENCE OF A BOMB WOULD BE FOUND. HIS AGGAILANT, WRATH, SHOT DOWN THE TRAIL.

EXCUSE ME, BUT ARE YOU COMEY? YOUR CLIENT DESTROYED A TRAINWAY--USING SUPER POWERS! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU--

EXCUSE ME, COUNSELOR. BUT WHERE DID YOU LEARN COURTROOM MANNERS? WRESTLEMANIA?

FURTHERMORE, THIS IS NOT SOME SCIENCE-FICTION MOVIE. WE DO NOT SEND SUSPECTS TO "MUTANT CENTRAL."

EVEN IF MR. MUNROE SOMEHOW DOES HAVE PARANORMAL POWERS, HE'S STILL COVERED BY THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

YET GIVEN THE UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, BAIL IS SET AT \$1 MILLION, 10% CASH BOND. GRAND JURY WITHIN FIVE DAYS.

CHARGES AGAINST MS. ANTONETTE COHEN ARE DROPPED FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE. COURT DISMISSED.

HEY, I KNOW IT SOUNDS LIKE A LOT, BUT MAYBE A MOVIE PRODUCER WILL PAY IT. REMEMBER AMY FISHER?

HEY, I WAS NOWHERE NEAR HER.

HUH? OH, THAT WAS A JOKE, RIGHT?

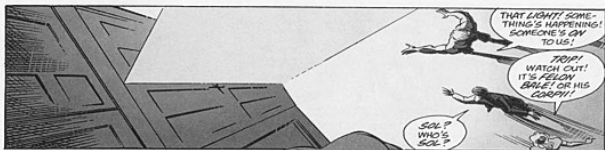
LOOK, I PROMISE I'LL THINK OF SOME THING. SAY, UH... ARE YOU AND MS. COHEN DATING?

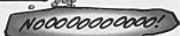
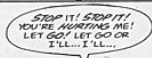
WHO? WHO'S MS. CO-- OH! UH... NO. WHY?

WELL... THERE'S THIS NEW RESTAURANT OPENING IN SOHO TONIGHT, AND I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO...

A DATE? WELL, UH, Y'SEE, I'M NOT EXACTLY...

SQU! LOOK!











NEARBY, TIMES
SQUARE...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
DIET COKE

"I HAVE SEEN THIS
WORLD CHANGE...
SEEN EVERYTHING
AS MY ATOMS ACHED
IN AGONY."

"AND I DESPISE
THIS DELUDED
WORLD MORE
THAN EVER."

"I WILL ENJOY
MY GAME ALL
THE MORE."

NEW
KS
SKREEE SHHH RASSHHH

YOU! YOU SEEK
TO KILL ME!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT
THE TEMPUS MAGII
DO? WE PLAY WITH
TIME.

NO! I LOST
CONTROL!
I SWEAR!

MY GAME IS THIS:
I TAKE THINGS THROUGH
TIME BUT NOT SPACE.

IN SECONDS I WILL KNOW...
YES! 16 YEARS FROM
NOW, A BURGLAR WILL
SURPRISE YOU AT HOME...

... AND SLIT YOUR
THROAT. I WILL TAKE
YOU THERE NOW.

NOW I GO...
TO PLAY
THIS
GAME...

... WITH THE
HUMAN WHO
BROUGHT
ME PAIN.

A FEW BLOCKS
AND WORLDS
AWAY...

GARFILL CORPUS
IS JUST TRYING
TO DEAL.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
IT.

THE STREET IN FRONT
OF TRIP MUNROE'S
APARTMENT HOUSE IS IN
SOME SEPARATE TIME
BLOC FROM EVERY-
THING ELSE...

...AND
NO ONE
SEEMS TO
NOTICE!

AH, WHY DO I EVEN
CARE? I'M ONLY ON THIS
WORLD TO KILL EARTH'S
CHAMPION AND REDEEM
MYSELF WITH OUR LORD,
FELON BALE.

STILL...
SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS
TIME BLOC
IS TOO
FAMILIAR
FOR COMFORT.

...NOW THAT'S
A LAUGH:
"COMFORT."

FELON BALE
THINKS I'M DEAD--
OR ELSE A DESERTER,
WHICH IS DEAD
WAITING TO HAPPEN.

EVEN IF I DO
FIND A DOORWAY
BACK TO THE
NEBBYBS AND
BRING BACK
TRIP'S HEAD...

-- MY REWARD'S A
RELIGIOUS RITUAL
WHERE MY HEAD
GETS RIPPED FROM
MY BODY.

NO WONDER
FELON BALE
KEPT IT SECRET...

STOP THAT!
YOU'RE THINKING
BAD THOUGHTS!

CONCENTRATE
ON THE HUNT...
ON TRIP'S
SCENT.

"MAYBE IT'LL
LEAD ME TO
WHERE HE'S
BEEN--"

"-- AND TO THINGS
I CAN USE AS
BAIT."

HOW CAN THIS BE? THE NEWS IS REPORTING EVERYTHING -- EXCEPT THAT Z-MAN'S RETURNED!

THEY KEEP CALLING ME BY MY REGULAR NAME... AS IF Z-MAN NEVER EXISTED. AS IF HE WERE... WERE REALLY ONLY A COMIC-BOOK CHARACTER...

MAYBE HE WAS JUST THAT, MR. FLEISHMANN... AN OLD DREAM MADE REAL BY RES/RE AND SOME HIDDEN WEAPONS.

NO. NO... THE TRAUMAS OF MY LIFE MAY HAVE JUST BEEN TOO MUCH FOR ME... MAYBE THAT'S WHY I FORGOT...

BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW EVERYONE ELSE DID, TOO.

"IT WAS IN THE DAY PEARL HARBOR WAS BOMBED, MY FATHER WAS AN ARMY RABBI; MY MOTHER, A RED CROSS VOLUNTEER.

"THEY BOTH WERE KILLED IN AN ANTI-SEMITIC RIOT, 1942.

"THE NEWSPAPERS JUMPED ON IT: 'THE ARMY CAN'T PROTECT ITS OWN.'

"IT GOT SO BAD, SOME WHITE HOUSE STRATEGIST HAD THE BRIGHT IDEA TO MAKE THE ARMY GRANT A SIDEKICK TO THE PAXIS...

"LIKE SOME GLORIFIED HONORARY GATEBOY.

"I WASN'T TO SEE ACTION, OF COURSE. I WAS A PHOTO-OP -- 'SCOOTER JONES,' POSTER BOY FOR THE PERSECUTED JEW 'PROTECTED' BY AMERICA!

"BUT I HAD NOTHING ELSE. IT BECAME MY LIFE.

"ONE DAY, SOME LUCKY GUY THINKING ON MY PART SAVED THE PAXIS FROM SABOTEURS AT A BOMB RALLY. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT SOMETIME.

"SO THEY OWED ME, AND THEY REPAYED THEIR DEBT BY LIBERATING ONE OF THOSE CONCENTRATION CAMPS WE'D HEARD RUMORS OF.

"I WENT ALONG -- NONE OF THE PAXIS SPOKE HEBREW.

"AND IT WAS THERE I SAW MY LAST LIVING RELATIVES DYE.

"I GROW HARD AFTER THAT. HAD NOTHING TO LIVE FOR, EXCEPT THE WORK."

"THERE WAS LOTS I COULD DO FOR THE AXIS-- COMMUNICATION... TRANSLATION..."

"COMMUNISTS-- WHAT, YOU THINK THEY WERE MAKE-BELIEVE?-- INFILTRATED AN ATOMIC RESEARCH FACILITY."

"I SQUEEZED INTO A PARTICLE ACCELERATOR-- THE ONLY MEANS OF ESCAPE..."

"ONE DAY, I EVEN HELPED THEM ESCAPE A TRAP."

"... AND GOT THEM AWAY AND RE-FORMED WHEN THE COMRADES TURNED ON A STREAM OF COLLIDING URANIUM PROTONS AND ANTI-PROTONS."

"MY BODY BECAME LIKE A PARTICLE ACCELERATOR ITSELF."

"YOU KNOW WHAT Z PARTICLES ARE? THEY WERE PRESENT AT THE BIG BANG OF CREATION."

"THEY HELD TOGETHER TWO OF THE FOUR FUNDAMENTAL NUCLEAR FORCES-- AND GAVE BIRTH TO THE ONE THAT CAUSES NUCLEAR DECAY."

"I COULD GENERATE THESE PARTICLES. I COULD TAKE THINGS APART, ATOM BY ATOM."

"I NEVER USED THAT POWER ON HUMANS. BUT THIS INEXTREMS-- HE WASN'T HUMAN."

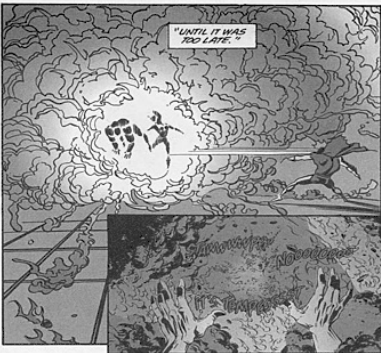
"HE'D KILL AT RANDOM-- JUST TO SEE HOW PEOPLE WOULD DIE. LIKE IT WAS A GAME."

"SOMEONE-- I DON'T KNOW WHO-- TIPPED ME OFF TO INEXTREMS'S SECRET HEADQUARTERS."

"AND HE DEFEATED ME-- STARTED KILLING ME. I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DEFEND MYSELF. NO CHOICE!"

"I NEVER SAW TEMPEST OF THE AXIS-- DIDN'T EVEN KNOW SHE WAS THERE..."

"UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE."





I'VE LIVED WITH THAT...
ALL THESE YEARS.

SO MUCH
PAIN... SO
MUCH
GUILT.

BUT THAT'S ALL
OVER NOW. I'M
THROUGH PAYING!
Z-MAN IS
BACK!

"Z-MAN"? THAT ALWAYS
WAS A STUPID NAME. WHAT
WOULD THE KIDS KIDDY
CALL THEMSELVES?

"ZETA?" THAT'S
IT! FROM NOW ON, I'M
ZETA! I'LL GET A
NEW COSTUME, AND
MAYBE A SIDEKICK...

I'M AN OLD MAN,
AND EVEN I DON'T
SOUND LIKE THAT.

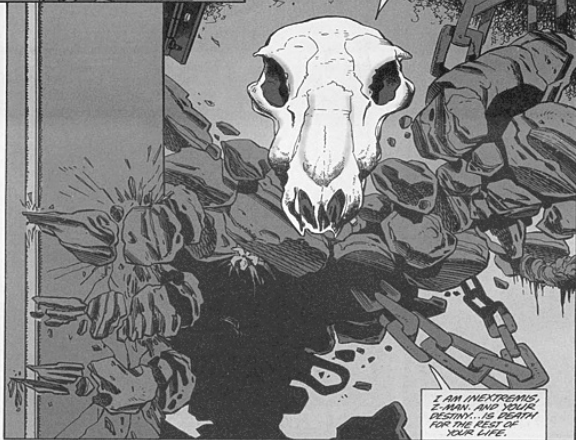
BE EASY ON HIM, SOL. IF I'M NOT
CAREFUL, THAT COULD BE ME
SOMEDAY! SOMETHING'S
BATTERING THE DOOR!



INDEED!

DO YOU REMEMBER ME, "Z-MAN"?
NO? TRY HARD-- BECAUSE OUR
DESTINIES ARE INTERTWINED.

AND I KNOW ALL
ABOUT DESTINIES.



I AM INEXTREMIS,
Z-MAN. AND YOUR
DESTINY... IS DEATH
FOR THE REST OF
YOUR LIFE.









THAT ALMOST MAKES UP FOR THE BRA.

POLICE! PARAMEDICS! GET HELP HERE!

TRIP... IT'S NO USE.

NO! YOU'RE NOT A DOCTOR! YOU DON'T KNOW THAT! POLICE! HELP!



OH, GOD! I'M BACK! I'M REALLY BACK!

...HELP...

I WAS EVERYWHERE! I SAW EVERYTHING! I WAS... I WAS... I WAS...



HE'S BARBLING. HE'S GONE CRAZY.

SOMEHOW HERSCHEL'S DEATH REVERSED THE EFFECTS OF THE Z PARTICLES. HIS DEATH... BROUGHT BACK LIFE.

IT'S ALL TOO MUCH... TOO MUCH FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND.

ALL I KNOW IS--SOMEONE'S JUST DIED IN MY ARMS, AND... HMM?

BLEEDING.



CONJURE UP A BANDAGE--HEY!

I CAN'T DO IT! MY POWER! IT'S GONE! I'VE USED IT UP!

TRIP! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? EVERYONE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!



"WHAT'S GOING ON?" WE'RE MAYBE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF THE WORLD--AND I'VE LOST THE ONLY POWER THAT COULD STOP IT.

WELL, THEN THE END OF THE WORLD BETTER WAIT UNTIL AFTER NEXT WEEKEND.

HERE, PARAGON COMMUNICATIONS HAS POSTED YOUR BAIL. READ THIS.



OHMIGOD. SOL. SOL!

I'VE BEEN ASKED TO HOST A TV SHOW! THEY WANT ME IN LOS ANGELES TO HOST...

"... FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!"

NEXT: THE PAXIS FROM *HYPERKIND*, PARAGON JOHN-- AND THE BIRTH OF *BLOODSHED*!

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NEW YORK, NY 10016

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SPENCER LAMM • ASST. EDITOR
MALCOLM SMITH • CONSULTING
EDITOR



unsung heroes

Marcus McLauren

Creating the look of each of the Razorline books was a concerted group effort, and in every corner the horns in the very back often don't get tooted loudly enough. So, in the interest of bringing behind-the-scenes to the forefront, I'd like to take a little time and space this month to give a little credit where credit is due, but where credit space isn't usually provided.

First, the amazingly intricate logo that graces this cover was designed and executed by letterer extraordinaire Darren Auck, a bullpener here whose invaluable and indefatigable assistance in capturing the flavor of this book is much appreciated.

Next, the colorist on this book is Maria Panathiotis, and this, believe it or not, her first regular coloring gig! It was a tremendous effort to find talented and skillful individuals (two separate aspects of ability, I've found) who had both the color sense to go where no comic color page has gone before, and the technical expertise to code to the complexity required for the Razorline titles. We know a find when we've found one!

Next time out, a look behind the scenes at the first ever Razorline Conference!

Anthony Williams
The three questions I'm asked most when telling somebody for the first time that I draw comics for a living are: Do you put the words in the balloons? Do you make up the stories? And most often: Where do you get your ideas from? The answers to which are, no, no, and um, uh, well... good question.

So there I am sitting at my drawing board with nothing to worry about except whether Antoinette's chest is large enough to keep Frank happy, when the phone rings and Marc McLauren asks if I want to write a few words for the book. Sure, what about?

Where do you get your ideas from?
Um, uh, good question.

Okay, let's start at the beginning. In the case of HOKUM AND HEX I initially received a brief plot outline and character descriptions from Clive (that's Mr. Barker to you and me) and then more fleshed out descriptions from Frank and Marc.

The first sketches were duly faxed but apparently nobody else visualized Trip as a 400-pound exotic dancer nor Felon Bale as half-man, half-poodle.

More suggestions (stop drawing with your feet) and words of encouragement (shape up or you're off the book) burnt down the fax lines over the next few weeks until we finally reached the book you see before you (don't even ask where Tom Hanks and Russ Meyer come into it).

But this still doesn't answer the question

where do the ideas actually come from?

Do I look like an encyclopedia? Ask the writer.

Dear Razorline,

I don't hesitate to buy anything by Clive Barker, or anything inspired and guided by his hand. The premises of all four books have the familiar Barker strain of horror or fantasy but each also has the potential to bridge the gap between horror and the mainstream super hero genre, thus bringing more fans from each group to comics-reading. And who knows, maybe Clive himself will find time to write an issue or two one day.

Of the four, HOKUM AND HEX might prove to be the most difficult to get off the ground simply because effective fantasy/horror humor is so hard to write well. Frank Lovece has done a good job here, demonstrating a neat sense of timing: Cormie's death on page 47 was amusing, as were the accidental killings of enemy warriors through Dex's magical powers. The Razorline titles have begun very promising. The writers can expand on, and the premises are all accompanied by very appealing, individual art that doesn't simply copy the current fad for open-mouthed, big-chested males and impossibly perfect females.

Marc Dito
52 Davies Avenue
Springwood, 2777
NSW Australia

No big-chested males or impossibly perfect females? You've never seen the creative team! Catch them at a store or convention near you soon and see for yourself (and get a signature while you're at it).

Dear Razorline,

Some thoughts on the first issue of HOKUM AND HEX.

First thought: why does that title sound so much like a vaudeville act? Or a disreputable law firm?

I have to admit that while all of the four new Barkerverse series piqued my interest in the Razorline preview, this one in particular had me curious. The pre-release hype said that while super hero action wasn't going to be short-handed, humor would nevertheless be an integral part of the book. To be honest, that kind of claim always leaves me a bit apprehensive: If it's done well, humor in a hero-comic can be a wonderful added touch... as Peter David has done repeatedly in his work for Marvel. But if it's not done well, it can take what was otherwise a decent series and send it plummeting down the tubes... as Keith Giffen does repeatedly in his work for DC.

Fortunately for us both, what I see in this first issue has me very optimistic. Writer

Frank Lovece (whose prior series for EPIC, ATOMIC AGE, was lovely) seems to know exactly when to go for the gag and when to hold back and let the action take over, and for me, that's half the battle right there.

I also find the basic concept of the series to my liking. To be sure, we've seen stories before where creepoids from another dimension encroach onto Earth "and only one man can stop them," but usually that "one man" is your standard musclebound hero type with the lantern jaw and steel-hard skin stare and thick accent proclaiming "I must break you" when facing impossible odds. Never before, in all my years of reading comics, have I seen a case wherein the "one man" on whose shoulders rests the fate of humanity was a scrawny, cowardly, out-of-work stage magician. And when you throw in the fact that he's also a klutz who has no real control over his powers on top of that, you get what... for me... is clearly a winning combination. I don't know if it's good comics or not, but it's too fascinating to turn away from.

I could go on, but I think you get my point. Count me in for the long haul on this one.

David Peatie
4517 Birch Bark Road
Concord, CA 94521

Good to have you aboard, David. Now give the book to a friend. There are still plenty of people who haven't read HOKUM AND HEX yet. Just think of all the good you could do them [sponsored by the No Shame Promo department].

NEXT:

Beginning a spectacular 4-part epic that will define Trip as Earth's greatest hero—or the last! Trip goes face to face with the champion of Felon Bale—Bloodshed!

CUTTING EDGE ALERT!

Next week SAINT SINNER #4:

Called back to Earth on unfinished business, the Saint Sinner is confronted by an undying evil and Madison Avenue gone amok! Don't miss "The Fearmonger," a prelude to crossover with Ectokid!

ELSEWHERE, ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE: HYPERKIND #5:

The power of Paragon John! Plus, the most-asked Razorline question of the decade is answered (sort of)—as we reveal the status of the fifth power!

Ectokid #5: Dex leaps back for Ectospheric adventure that reunites him with his father—and a demonic troll on both their tails! Quick starring James Dean, Janis Joplin, Sacco and Vanzetti!